



Folk Dance Artist Ram Sahai Pandey

Why in News?

On 8th April 2025, **Padma Shri awarded folk dance artist Ram Sahay Pandey passed away** in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- **About Ram Sahai:**
 - He was **born on 11 March 1933** in **Maddhar Patha village of Sagar district**.
 - He **belonged to an agriculturist Brahmin family** and was the youngest of four siblings.
 - He got Rai dance recognized in 24 countries and **established the Bundelkhandi Lok Nritya Natya Kala Parishad**.
 - In the year **2022, he was awarded Padma Shri**.
 - Apart from this, in the year 1980 he was awarded the **title of 'Nritya Shiromani'**.

Rai Dance



- Rai dance is the **most famous dance of Bundelkhand**.
- This dance is especially performed on **special occasions like marriages and birth celebrations**.
- Both men and women dance in it. The **women who perform the Rai dance** are called **Bednis** and the **men are called Mridangdhari**.
- Women tie ghungroos to their feet and dress up and dance to the beats of the Mridang. During this time men and **women also sing Desi Swaang**.
- Rai dance not only keeps the cultural heritage alive but also reveals the hidden folk art and traditions which symbolize the rich cultural heritage of Bundelkhand.
- The **Bedia tribe in Madhya Pradesh** performs this folk dance.
- It is also performed by women of the **Ahir tribe** on the occasion of the birth of a child in the Vaishya community.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/folk-dance-artist-ram-sahai-pandey>

